

Utah Water Fowl

By Harry Aldous

From Personal Observation

About two miles west of this city are situated several bodies of shallow water, known as the White lakes, so called from the grayish appearance of the bottoms, which are a mixture of mud and alkali, and added to the effect thus produced the water is heavily impregnated with alkali. These shallow lakes gradually dry up during the summer months, thus depositing the alkali, which gives the shores a frosty appearance, and from which the name is derived.

The mud flats and salt grass marshes surrounding these lakes comprise the summer home and breeding ground of numerous water fowl, among which are the avocet, the black-necked stilt, the killdeer and the snowy plover. The latter and I once carried on quite a conversation that is, it mimicked and answered to his whistle can be so called. Standing on the margin of a shallow pool, not more than three yards away, he repeatedly answered my imitation of his call notes, and never seemed to tire. In fact, he seemed to enjoy the fun. His call is composed of two melodious whistles, notes, and is very easy to imitate, being the two "sa" on the flute stop of a pipe organ—the middle and upper notes, uttered with a rising inflection. They are full and round and are readily translated into his own name—"snow-sa"—but "snow-sa" is not at all the correct translation. He is not at all shy, and his plump little throat will swell to twice the natural size with the spirit and vim he puts into his notes.

Smallest of Flower Family.

This little bird is the smallest of its plover family, being only six and one-half inches in length. He is prominently marked with black blotches on the crown of his head and on his throat, has small black crescents on the sides of his breast, upper parts and forehead grayish brown, line over the eye, incomplete collar, and under parts pure white. He is truly a western species, breeding from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific. The favorite food of this plover consists of small insects and new grasses, which he finds on the margins of these shallow lakes, but does not probe for them in the mud, as his short, pigeon-like bill indicates. The nest is a slight depression on the ground, without any lining. The eggs, three in number, are pale buff or clay color, finely dotted and scratched with black. In size they average 1.20 inches in length by .90 of an inch broad. The nesting site is usually on ground that resembles the eggs so closely in color that it is impossible to see them.

About the Killdeer.

(Oxyechus vociferus.)

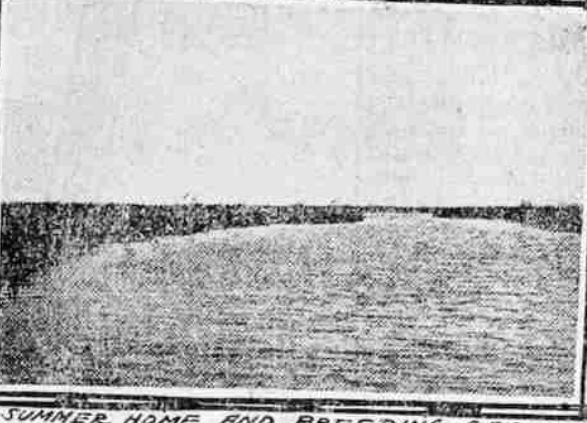
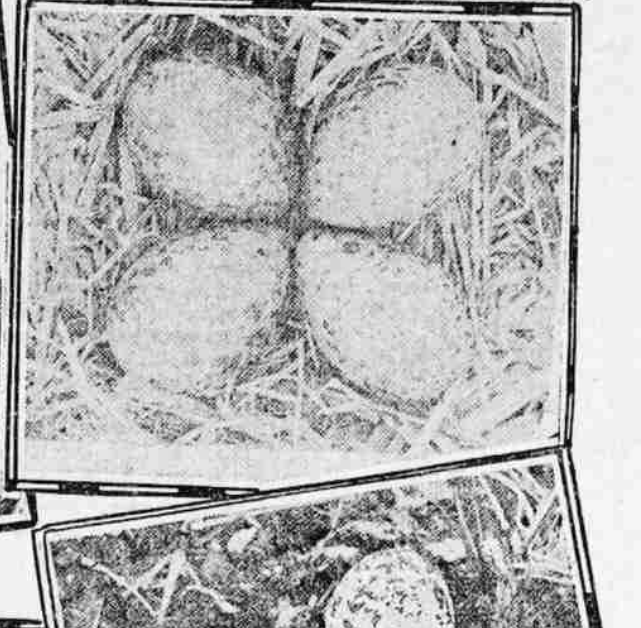
The killdeer plover, although so well known, deserves a description if only for the good he does as an insect destroyer, and on those alkali mud flats the natural student may learn his habits and know him as he really is. He is a bird of infested fields and marshes, as he is also of cultivated fields and meadows. His call of "kill-dee" is the first sound of bird life that greets the ear as one approaches these mud flats and salt grass marshes. He is a nervous fellow and stays right with one as long as one lingers about his breeding grounds. When undisturbed his call is plaintive and sweet. The numerous sheep and cattle herded over these salt grass pastures do not seem to annoy him in the least, but when man is allied his call is loud and shrill, incessantly repeated, while he is flying close overhead or running along the ground in front, but always at a safe distance. The white ring around his neck and the black bands across his breast readily identify him, with grayish brown upper parts, a prominent chestnut-colored patch at the base of the tail, a white line across the forehead and eye, and white outer tail feathers. In length he averages about ten and one-half inches. There is no difference in the plumage of the sexes. Angle worms are the favorite food of the killdeer. He is partly nocturnal on this account, for the reason that the angle worms come to the surface after dark and in the daytime he feeds upon insects and larvae. He is greatly beneficial to the farmer, as much of his time is spent in cultivated fields destroying grasshoppers.

The killdeer has a natural protection in the fact that his feathers are so mottled that his food, his flesh has a mushy and

NEST AND EGGS OF THE BLACK-NECKED STILT.



NEST AND EGGS OF THE AMERICAN AVOCET.



SUMMER HOME AND BREEDING GROUNDS.

NEST AND EGGS OF THE KILLDEER.

insipid flavor, and at no time of the year is it a fit article of food. He is, therefore, not worth the powder and shot to bring him down. The four clay-colored eggs are laid on the ground in any place the bird may take a fancy to—either in cultivated fields, meadows, or on mud flats. The eggs are spotted and blotched with burnt umber and blue shell markings, and average in size about 1.50 to 1.60 inches in length by 1.10 to 1.20 inches broad. Incubation lasts ten days. The young are top-heavy, long-legged, buff-striped little chicks, that run about and feed themselves as soon as hatched.

American Avocet.

(Recurvirostra Americana.)

The avocet, also called "blue-stocking" and "scooper," is numerous in Utah. This eccentric-looking bird is usually seen in company with the stilt and willet, wading about and probing the muddy bottoms of the White lakes in search of water insects and worms, which constitute their favorite food. These birds are not at all shy and will allow of a close inspection, provided nothing but field glasses are in sight. A stick carried in the hand will cause them to spring into the air, calling back "click, click," to alight in some other nearby shallow. The breeding plumage of this species is bright cinnamon on head and neck, and this striking color, together with the recurved bill readily identifies the avocet at sight.

He is a true wader, and with his upturned bill seems to now the bottoms of

shallow pools much the same as a farmer using a scythe, sweeping from left to right, feeding and probing in the mud for insects and worms that his sensitive bill dislodges. The avocet is the most graceful swimmer among the waders. Having the three front toes webbed, he is able to swim in the deep-cut water as gracefully as he walks on

land. This species has the same peculiar habit when alighting as the tern and plovers—raising its wings until they meet over the back before folding them away at its side.

Both sexes are identical in plumage—head and neck in summer bright cinnamon (this changes to ashy or gray in winter), dark brown wings, with coverts

and secondaries white, black primaries, white under parts and slate-blue legs. Hence the common name, "blue stocking." This species varies from ten to twenty inches in length. The breeding season is May or early June, a depression on the ground serving for the nest without any lining, when the eggs are laid on the mud flats; but when deposited on meadow land the bird pads down the grass, which forms a lining to the nest. The eggs, four in number, are brownish, spotted with chocolate brown, and they vary in size from 1.80 inches to 2 inches in length, by 1.20 to 1.40 inches in breadth. The young are little buffy and white chicks that hunt for insects as soon as hatched. One brood only is reared in a season in Utah.

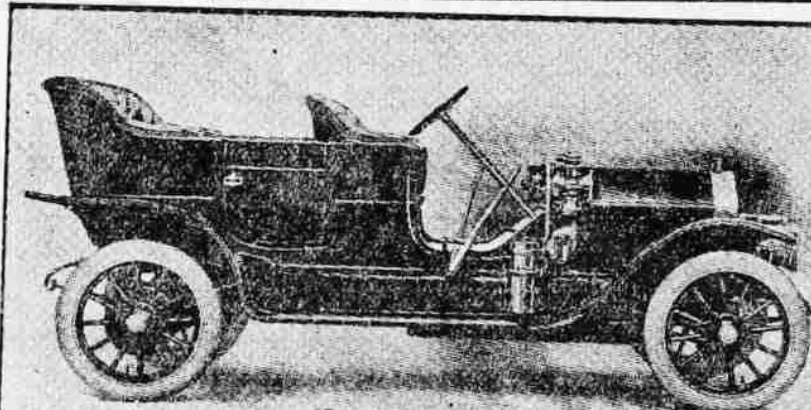
Black-Necked Stilt.

(Himantopus mexicanus.)

The stilts are seen in Utah from early spring until late in the fall, wading about in shallow pools among the salt grass marshes and alkali mud flats west of this city, and are usually in small flocks in company with avocets and willets, and like the latter they breed here in fairly large numbers. The characteristic length of this bird's legs, his snow-white under parts and glossy black back and wings distinguish him wherever seen. He is graceful and alert, and it is therefore necessary to study his habits through field glasses. His long, stilt-like legs are well adapted to wading in shallow water, while with his long and slender bill he probes the soft, muddy bottoms for water insects and worms, often plunging both head and neck under water to seize some dainty tit-bit which requires an extra long reach. Although the stilt's legs are so well adapted to wading, there is no web to his toes and consequently he is not a good swimmer and seldom ventures into deep water, as does the avocet, and unlike the latter he is shy and takes alarm at the slightest sign of danger, rising quickly on the wing and crying "click, click," as he leisurely moves away to some new feeding ground.

Stilts are strong flyers and present a striking sight in the air by alternately showing the white under parts and black upper parts of their bodies. Their characteristic trait and the trailing of their long red legs straight out behind identify them with readiness while they are in flight.

The striking appearance of this species causes many a sportsman to bring them down, regardless of the fact that their flesh is insipid in texture and not at all a desirable article of food. As insect destroyers they are of great value. The nest (as is usual with all wading birds) is placed on the ground in a slight depression, which is lined with a few weed stems and dry grass, near some stream or pond about salt grass marshes or on the mud flats. The eggs, three or four in number, are spotted and blotched with black and brown of various shades over a ground color of greenish-buff pyrrhism. They are pear-shaped and average about 1.50 inches in length by 1.20 broad. The nesting season is in May or early June, one brood only being reared in a season. The young are brownish buff, with prominently large eyes, and they are able to catch insects as soon as hatched.



BUICK "40"

Why pay twice the price for some other automobile that has less than half the ability of the BUICK "40"?

Remember the Buick "40" Sells at \$1750.00 F. O. B. FACTORY

Buick

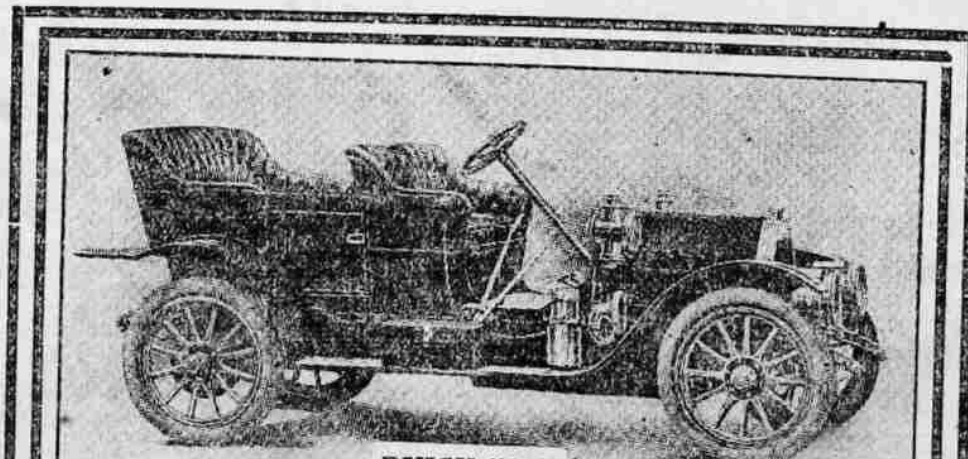
And we claim that it is matchless in speed and power and that no other automobile selling for less than \$3000.00 is its equal. We stand ready to duplicate any test of endurance, speed or power of any \$3000.00 automobile sold, and then some. Pay us the courtesy of a call and permit us to demonstrate fact in the assertion.

Randall-Dodd Auto Co., Ltd.

Retail Department
223 South State St.

BELL 3357
IND. 2355

Distributors for
Utah, Wyoming,
Idaho, Nevada



BUICK "30"



STORIES OF SUCCESS

ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE.



Opportunity may knock at every man's door, but well-timed decision opens it. Robert M. La Follette, the fighting senator from Wisconsin, heard that tap just once, and the door swung wide.

From that one intense moment the barefoot boy, then pushing his father's plow, threw himself into a grim, defiant grapple to wrest from the farm life that sturdy energy which later sustained him through college and his entire legal and political career.

The life of Robert La Follette is one shining trail, blazed by vigorous human industry, but it is a trail staid by success.

Everywhere, the world over, the opportunity to earn and save money is open to everybody.

Saving one's money doubles the chances for success.

With a savings account in some good bank you rise to every occasion.

Saving a dollar makes it grow. Every dollar saved has a future. Your money is safe here, and the interest we pay makes saving doubly worth while.

UTAH SAVINGS & TRUST COMPANY

235 Main Street
In the Business Heart

BOTH PHONES 171

Federal Coal Co.

Utah and Wyoming Coal

EXCLUSIVE AGENTS
Kemper and Gunn-Quealy Rock Springs. "Coal when you want it."

Office 160 South Main Street,
Yards 8th South and 2nd West.

T. J. O'BRIEN, Gen. Sales Agent.
P. J. MORAN, Gen. Manager.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Salt Lake, Sept. 15.
Will you please to tell in Sunday's paper: (1) to whom shall I address a request in Canada for, or to procure, a copyright? (2) Does Canadian copyright "cover" Great Britain or does it only apply to Canada? A READER.

Write for this information to the Hon. Frank Oliver, minister of the interior, Ottawa, Canada.

Salt Lake City, Sept. 15.
Will you please answer in next Sunday's edition the following question: If a sheep dies and is left by the herder, or if left behind the herd, would it be lawful for a man to pelt and claim the pelt of the said sheep without permission from the owner? A DAILY READER.

Probably not. If there is doubt in such a case, it is likely that to take such a pelt would be stealing.

Salt Lake City, Sept. 15.
Can a person hold improvements, such as buildings, machinery, etc., on mining ground which he jumps? SUBSCRIBER.

It is impossible to make definite answer to a general query like that. Your "jump" may not count. In general, however, a legal location secures whatever is either on or in the ground.

"Can be depended upon" is an expression we all like to hear, and when it is used in connection with Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy it means that it never fails to cure diarrhoea, dysentery or bowel complaints. It is pleasant to take and equally valuable for children and adults. Sold by all dealers.

SALT LAKE-DENVER.

Through Standard sleeper service via Oregon Short Line and Union Pacific in Los Angeles Limited trains, leaving Salt Lake daily at 11:55 a. m., arriving Denver 11:35 a. m. the following day. City ticket office, 150 Main street.

Henager's Business College.

New students may enroll in Henager's Business College at any time. Day and night sessions continue all the year.

Offices in the fire-proof, new, up-to-date McIntyre building. Low rents.

Tribune Want Ads.

Bell Main 5200. Independent 340.

SEALED BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED until noon, September 22nd, by the Willow River Land & Irrigation Co., Brogan, Oregon, for the construction of 55,000 cu. yds. Work must be opened up by October 1, 1911, and completed on or before March 1, 1912. Two separate bids are asked for. One at a flat price per cu. yd., and the other on a classification basis. Specifications may be seen at the office of the company, Brogan, Oregon. Writer reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

W. M. WAYMAN, General Manager.